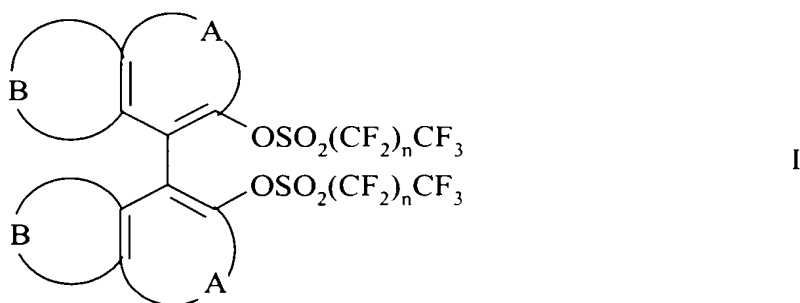


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

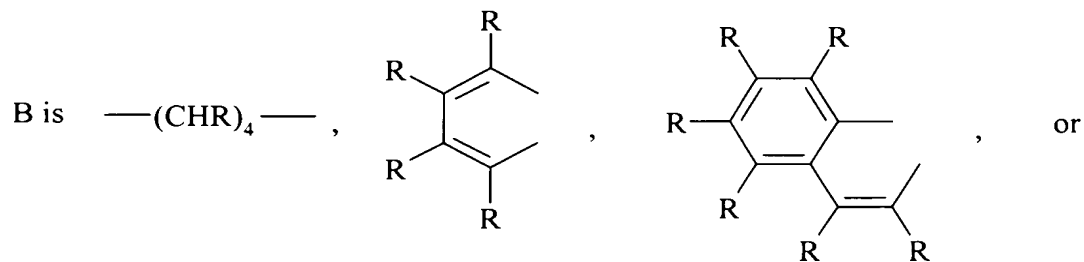
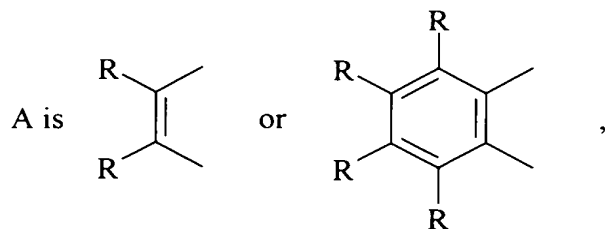
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

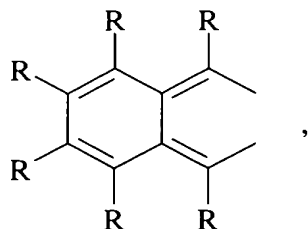
1. (Previously presented) A bis(perfluoro-n-alkanesulfonate) compound of the formula I:



where

n is 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9,





where nonadjacent groups =CR- are optionally replaced by =N-, and -CHR- are optionally replaced by -NR-, -O- or -S-, provided that at least one =CR- or -CHR- group is so replaced,

and

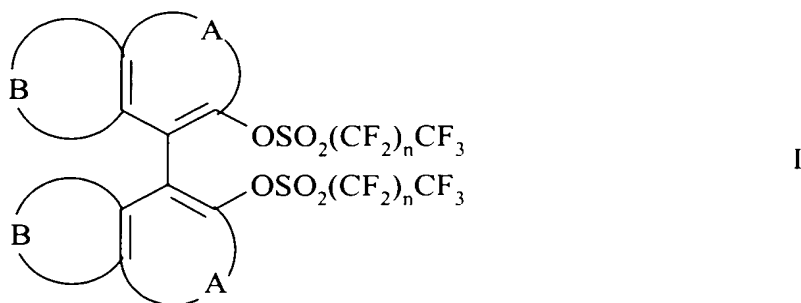
R is alkyl or alkoxy having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, halogen, -CN, -CF₃, -OCF₃ or unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl which is monosubstituted or polysubstituted by alkyl or alkoxy having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, halogen or -CN, where if more than one R is present the substituents R may be identical or different.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) A compound of the formula I according to Claim 1, wherein R is alkyl or alkoxy having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, F, Br, CN, -CF₃, -OCF₃.

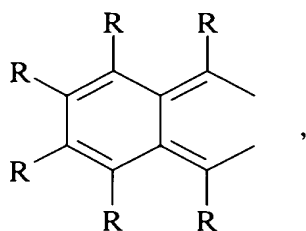
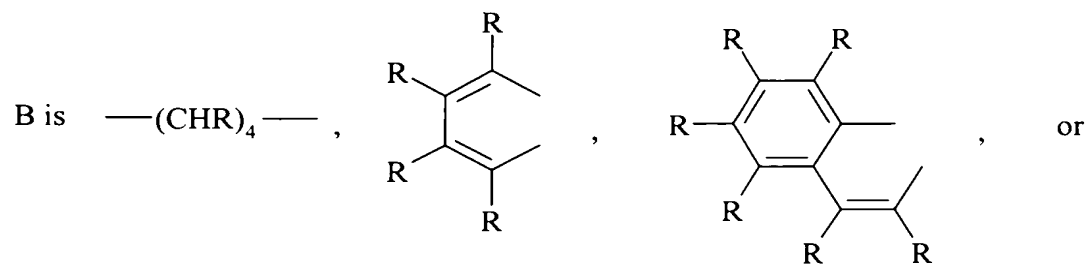
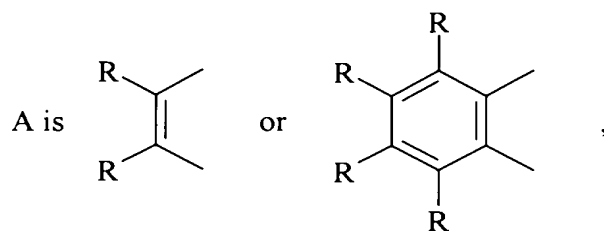
4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of claim 1
bis(perfluoro-n-alkanesulfonate) compound of the formula I:



where

n is 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9,

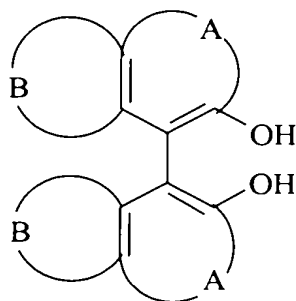


where nonadjacent groups =CR- are optionally replaced by =N-, and -CHR- are optionally replaced by -NR-, -O- or -S-, provided that at least one =CR- or -CHR- group is so replaced,

and

R is alkyl or alkoxy having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, halogen, -CN, -CF₃, -OCF₃ or unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl which is monosubstituted or polysubstituted by alkyl or alkoxy having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, halogen or -CN, where if more than one R is present the substituents R may be identical or different,

which comprises reacting a compound of the formula II:



II

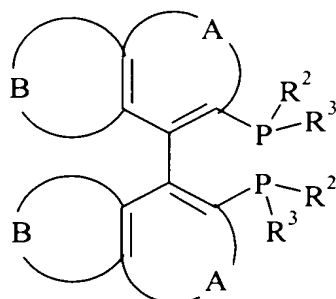
where A and B are as defined with a perfluoro-n-alkanesulfonyl fluoride, chloride or anhydride in the presence of a base.

6. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 5, wherein the compounds of the formula II are reacted with nonafluoro-n-butanesulfonyl fluoride or perfluoro-n-octanesulfonyl fluoride in the presence of a base.

7. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 5, wherein the base used is a pyridine, a pyrimidine, a pyridazine, a trialkylamine or a dialkylarylamine.

8. - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A method for preparing a diphosphine of formula III using a bis(perfluoro-n-alkanesulfonate) compound of the formula I of claim 1, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula I, in the presence of a transition metal and a base, with either a phosphine of the formula IV or zinc and a phosphine of the formula V:

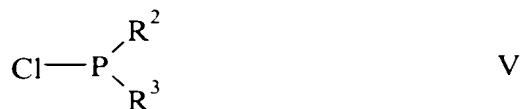


III

where A and B are as defined above

and

R², R³ are phenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 3-methylphenyl, 2-methylphenyl, 3,5-dimethylphenyl, 3,5-ditert-butylphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 3-methoxy-phenyl, 2-methoxyphenyl, 3,5-dimethoxyphenyl, cyclohexyl or cyclopentyl;



where R^2 and R^3 are as defined above.

12. (Previously presented) A process according to Claim 11, wherein the transition metal catalyst used is a nickel catalyst.

13. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein at least one R is an optically active organic radical having an asymmetric carbon.

14. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein the reaction is conducted at a temperature of -30°C to $+70^{\circ}\text{C}$.

15. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein the molar ratio of the compound of formula II to the perfluoro-n-alkanesulfonyl fluoride, chloride or anhydride is from 1:2 to 1:20.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein R^2 and R^3 are both phenyl.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the reaction is conducted at a temperature from 20°C to 150°C.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the compound of formula I is reacted with zinc and a phosphine of the formula V and the molar ratio of the compound of the formula I to the zinc is from 1:2 to 1:40.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the molar ratio of the compound of the formula I to the phosphine of formula IV or phosphine of formula V is from 1:2 to 1:20.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the molar ratio of the compound of the formula I to the base is from 1:2 to 1:20.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the molar ratio of the compound of the formula I to the transition metal is from 100:1 to 2:1.